

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An apparatus comprises a buffer comprising a plurality of entries, a plurality of
5 age vectors, and a control circuit coupled to the buffer. Each of the age vectors
corresponds to one or more of the entries. Responsive to data being provided to the
buffer to be written to at least a first entry, the control circuit is configured to generate a
first age vector. The first age vector corresponds to the first entry, and is indicative of
which of the plurality of entries contain data that is older than the data being written to
10 the first entry. The control circuit is configured to select an entry for reading responsive
to the plurality of age vectors. The selected entry has an attribute used to select the
selected entry, and other entries indicated as storing older data in the age vector
corresponding to the selected entry do not have the attribute.